



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 24 2014

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable JoDe Goudy
Chairman of the Yakama Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes and Bands of
the Yakama Nation
Post Office Box 151, Fort Road
Toppenish, Washington 98948

Dear Chairman Goudy:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 2014, to the Environmental Protection Agency encouraging the EPA to begin federal promulgation of water quality standards for Washington State.

I very much appreciate the significance of ensuring that protected treaty-reserved rights to harvest and manage natural resources can be exercised without placing tribal members at a greater health risk. This can be accomplished by establishing human health criteria that protect the designated uses of waters and reflect the best available regional and local data. This matter is of great importance to me and the national water quality standards program. The EPA, working jointly between Region 10 and headquarters, is evaluating the progress and proposals that Washington State has made in revising its water quality standards, and a statement of our next steps will be made shortly.

Again, thank you for your letter expressing the views of your tribes on this significant issue. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, or your staff may contact Elizabeth Southerland, Director of the Office of Science and Technology, at 202-566-0430, or southerland.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth J. Kopocis".

Kenneth J. Kopocis
Deputy Assistant Administrator